

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1 – 26 cancelled

27. (Previously presented) An apparatus for depositing fluid dots on a receiving surface in an array, comprising:

- a deposit device cooperatively related with a fluid source;
- a multiplicity of drop-carrying elements coupled to the deposit device;
- a transport mechanism for positioning the device at a precisely referenced position over the receiving surface; and
- a drive mechanism for moving the element, relatively, in deposition motion toward and away from the surface.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 27 further including a multiplicity of fluid-retaining structures, each co-operatively arranged with the drop-carrying element and constructed to retain fluid including biological material by surface tension.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein each said fluid-retaining structure is constructed and shaped for at least partial immersion into a well including the biological material.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said fluid-retaining structure includes a circular-shaped member for said retention of liquid by surface tension and said drop-carrying element is constructed to move with respect to said member to receive said fluid therefrom.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said fluid-retaining structure includes a U-shaped member for said retention of liquid by surface tension and said drop-carrying element is constructed to move with respect to said member to receive said fluid therefrom.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein fluid-retaining structure includes a helical member for said retention of liquid by surface tension and said drop-carrying element is constructed to move with respect to said member to receive said fluid therefrom.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein fluid-retaining structure includes a closed shape member for said retention of liquid by surface tension and said drop-carrying element is constructed to move with respect to said member to receive said fluid therefrom.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein fluid-retaining structure includes a partially closed shape member for said retention of liquid by surface tension and said drop-carrying element is constructed to move with respect to said member to receive said fluid therefrom.

35. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein fluid-retaining structure is made of a material providing appropriate surface tension for retaining said liquid including biological material and said drop-carrying element is constructed to move with respect to said member to receive said fluid therefrom.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said fluid-retaining structure includes a circular-shaped member for said retention of liquid by surface tension and said drop-carrying element is constructed to move with respect to said member to receive said fluid therefrom.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said drop-carrying element includes a pin.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 29, wherein said deposit device is constructed to urge said drop-carrying element to a predetermined position to achieve said precisely referenced position when said drop-carrying elements is in contact with the receiving surface.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein said deposit device is constructed to achieve said precisely referenced position using a gravity element.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein said deposit device is constructed to achieve said precisely referenced position using a spring.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the receiving surface includes a rigid, smooth substrate.

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the rigid, smooth substrate is a glass slide.

43. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the receiving surface includes a porous membrane.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the receiving surface includes a nitrocellulose.

45. (New) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the receiving surface includes a cellulose acetate, polyvinylidene fluoride (PVDF) or nylon.

46. (New) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the receiving surface includes a gel.